



# KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Attachment R



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Synod of New South Wales and the ACT

15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Media Statement issued by the Uniting Church in Australia,  
Synod of New South Wales and the ACT and Knox Grammar School**

Three former teachers at Knox Grammar School have pleaded guilty to charges relating to the sexual abuse of a number of students at the School between the 1970s and 1980s. Knox Grammar School is a Uniting Church School.

The Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of New South Wales and the ACT, the Rev. Niall Reid, said today: "The Uniting Church and Knox Grammar School are sincerely sorry and unreservedly apologise for the abuse of these students while they attended the School. The Church is most concerned for their welfare and admires their courage in confronting such an ordeal.

"Counselling has been offered, on a confidential basis, to the victims and their families.

"The Uniting Church is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment in all its Schools and supports the School Council and Headmaster of Knox in their determination to provide the safest possible environment for the students at Knox".

The Headmaster of Knox Grammar School, Mr John Weeks, said: "Knox acknowledges that it is responsible for the welfare and protection of students in its care. Parents entrust their children to a school believing that they will be educated in a safe environment. Abuse of a student by a teacher is abhorrent to everything that Knox stands for. On behalf of the School I would like to express my profound regret that this occurred.

"Since this investigation began, Knox has worked assiduously to assist Police and to encourage witnesses to come forward. The School believes its current child protection procedures are of the highest standard and more than meet the regulatory requirements.

"Nonetheless, in cooperation with the Uniting Church, Knox will continue to closely monitor these procedures to ensure that in the 21st century Knox provides the safest possible environment for its students."

As a number of matters are still before the courts, no further comment will be made at this time.

John W. Weeks  
Headmaster  
Knox Grammar School

The Rev. Niall Reid  
Moderator, Uniting Church in Australia  
Synod of New South Wales and the ACT